Toronto metro

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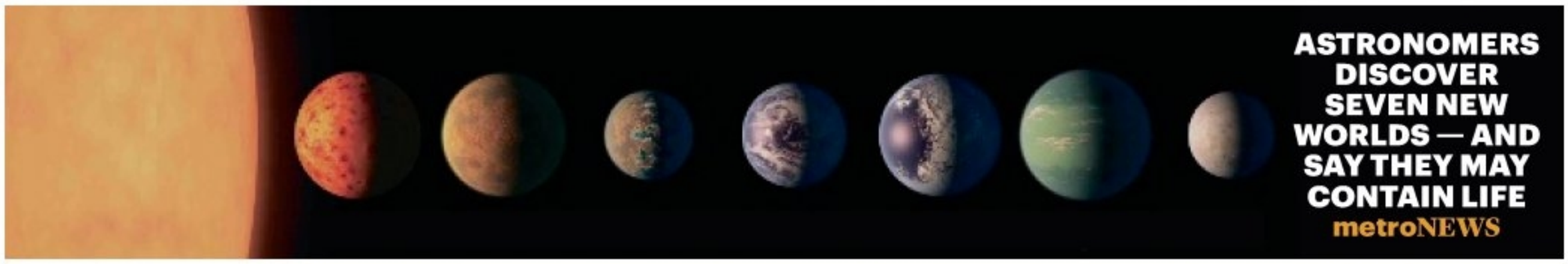


ASTRONOMERS DISCOVER SEVEN NEW WORLDS — AND SAY THEY MAY CONTAIN LIFE
metroNEWS

Toronto metro

SIT-IZEN COP

Who's in the right here?
metroNEWS

Your essential daily news THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2017 High 16°C/Low 3°C Here comes spring!

HOMELESS BRAND CALLED 'DISTURBING'

New Toronto clothing line has people raving mad, but this entrepreneur says the backlash is based on a 'misunderstanding' metroNEWS

Mumps cases linked to city's west-end bars

OUTBREAK

Fourteen viral infections; all affect people aged 18 to 35

Toronto Public Health is warning the public about an outbreak of mumps that may be spreading in downtown bars.

The agency is investigating 14 lab-confirmed cases of the contagious disease, and other cases under investigation, with all those sickened between the ages of 18 and 35.

"The investigation to date has identified that many of these cases have frequented bars in the west downtown core of Toronto. This may be a contributing factor in the circulation of this viral infection," the release states.

The mumps virus, found in saliva and respiratory droplets, is spread through coughing, sneezing, and coming into contact with saliva by kissing or sharing drinks, utensils, food or water bottles.

"A major factor contributing to outbreaks is being in a crowded environment, such as attending the same class, playing on the same sports team or living in a dormitory with a person who has the mumps," public health says,

The risk to the general public from the infection is "low" but people with concerns are advised to check the immunization records of themselves and family members.

Mumps symptoms include: swelling and pain in salivary glands in the sides of cheeks and jaw; fever; headache; muscle aches and pains; fatigue; and loss of appetite. Symptoms can last up to 10 days.

Complications can include encephalitis, an infection in the brain; meningitis, an infection in the lining of the brain; painful swelling of the testicles or the ovaries; pancreatitis; and hearing loss. Pregnant women who become infected with mumps during the first three months of pregnancy are at risk of miscarriage. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

CITY UNTANGLING MESS OF ROADS IN ETOBICOKE DUBBED 'SPAGHETTI JUNCTION'

TORONTO POLICE USE HEARSE TO GET DISTRACTED DRIVERS' ATTENTION

WHAT'S EATING ACTOR JASON SEGEL? ACTUALLY THIS TORONTO COMEDIAN IS

ATU LOCAL 113 MEMBERS

To the members who operate and maintain the most efficient and effective transit system.

I want to thank all of you, the members of Toronto's transit union, who continue to provide quality service during this challenging time for our local. Your support and commitment is tremendous. There has been a lot of misinformation released by our ATU American affiliate body and I want you to know the facts about our union.

On Tuesday, February 21 the Ontario Superior Court of Justice ruled an end to the trusteeship of our local and that my role as your duly elected President be reinstated.

This ruling upholds your democratic rights as a member of our Local. It is your victory, and our union local can now get back to servicing members.

Justice Penny stated the following in the court's ruling:

"It is clear that the purpose of the trusteeship is to quell dissent."

"Removal from office manifestly deprives the membership of their duly elected leader."

"I find that International has used the trusteeship to silence opposition and to spread misinformation to the members."

"Irreparable harm also results from the fact that, by removing Mr. Kinnear from office as president, the trusteeship has prevented the plaintiff from effective communication with the members who elected him. International now controls all communications with the members and has the absolute power to dispose of, or silence, dissenters."

"Kinnear is the democratically elected president of Local 113. Local 113 and its members are faced with an immediate and crucial determination of their representation rights through the CLC justification process."

The past few weeks should be a reminder to us all that no member, regardless of their position, should be threatened, harassed or misled. I want to be perfectly clear, your pension and your job are safe – the misleading by the ATU international should end here.

Now is the time for members to decide – that's your right and I will continue to defend the rights of union membership and your representation.

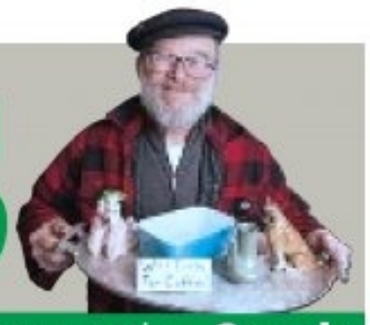
Together we will continue to make a difference for workers in Canada's labour movement.

In solidarity, your President

Bob Kinnear

metro NEWS

Your essential daily news



Ottawa couple trades vintage belongings for cups of Joe, conversation. **Canada**

Breaching the etiquette line

Subway altercation video proves two wrongs don't make a right

Edward Keenan
Torstar News Service

Video stills of the incident show the sequence of events surrounding the altercation between two TTC riders. CONTRIBUTED

Let's just start here: If you think someone is being rude — a stranger, who is otherwise keeping to themselves — and your method of attempting to teach them to be more courteous involves physically assaulting them, by sitting on them say, then something has gone horribly wrong in your own etiquette lessons.

Perhaps by now you've seen the video that is circulating, causing much conversation, which shows an incident on a Toronto subway car. In it, a middle-aged woman, upset a young man has propped his feet on a seat in an apparently empty subway car, sits on his feet. He asks her repeatedly to get off of him. "I'm sorry, I can't," she says. He insults and swears at her. "I'm trying to explain to you that your feet shouldn't be on the seat," she says. "There are lots of social rules," she says. "We're a society, we all have to live together," she says. Eventually the young man pushes her off — fairly gently, as pushes go — and she pushes the emergency alarm, and they continue to bicker as they wait for security.

But to my astonishment, much of the reaction to this video as it's gone viral involves celebrating the woman's petulant stand in defence of seat integrity. As if she is some kind of propriety Charles Bronson, a subway bylaw vigilante scouring the underground looking for minor breaches of etiquette in order to teach the punks a lesson. "He shouldn't have his feet on the seat! He deserves whatever he gets!"

This is warped. The lady in the video is out of line — more so than the young man. And to understand why, we don't even need to dip into the racial politics of a situation in which a middle-aged white woman asserts herself physically to teach a young black man an unsolicited lesson in respect, and then summons authorities as the aggrieved party.

More basic than those thorny social dynamics is the very basic rule you should never put your body on top of someone else's without their permission. There are very few exceptions to this rule. Certainly, if they are inflicting physical harm on someone else or are about to do so, then you ought to feel justified physically restraining them. But beyond that, don't do it.

But I am also of the opinion that even before she made her critique physical, this woman probably ought to have kept her Miss Manners act to herself. It is true that by perching his feet on the metal edge of a seat, this young man may have been contaminating it imperceptibly. There's a reason the TTC has a bylaw forbidding this. But it is also true that, seeing him doing so, it is hard to envision a way for her to help the situation by pointing it out and bickering with him.

He knows he should not do it, and knows why. Possibly he thinks the placement of his feet is not soiling the seat. Possibly he doesn't care. Either way, he is doing it anyway. Some random bystander striding across the train to order him to obey will probably only cause him to be defensive and perhaps disrupt the lives of others on the train.

There are lots of other situations where intervening in the face of rude behaviour does help: In a crowded train, asking someone to move their backpack to open up a seat usually achieves the desired effect. When someone is being very loud, a simple request will often cause them to lower the volume. When someone is harming someone purposely — shouting insults or slurs, say — intervening may not de-escalate the situation, but can deflect the harm away from the intended target.

No such outcome could be expected in this case. No, the impulse to come striding across the train to teach this young man some manners had nothing at all to do with helping anything, or preventing any harm. Like so many acts of performative busybody scolding, it had everything to do with publicly demonstrating for her own sanctimonious self-satisfaction that she was better behaved than he was. And it backfired.

"We all have to live together," she said. And it's true. But living together is so much easier if we all resist the impulse to police each other's etiquette and save the theatrics for situations where they might conceivably make the situation better instead of worse.

That said, people: Keep your damn feet off the seats. And for heaven's sake, don't sit on strangers.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

No feet on seats: Green

TTC passengers who put their feet up on an empty seat aren't just breaching passenger etiquette; they could be fined.

That bylaw came to light after a video captured a heated dispute that erupted on a TTC subway train, when a woman tried to give a lesson in etiquette by sitting on another rider's feet that were draped over an empty seat.

In a two-minute video uploaded on Facebook by passenger Juliet Shylo, the two riders are seen bickering after the woman sits on the man's feet.

The male passenger asks the woman why she has chosen to sit on him, and she responds by saying it is her way of teaching him not to put his feet up on other seats.

After a minute of being sat on, the man nudges the woman off his feet. She presses the emergency alarm strip as the two continue to exchange insults.

TTC spokesperson Stuart Green confirmed the train had stopped for five and a half minutes at High Park station, but the two had already parted ways when they investigated. He also said the woman's use of the alarm was appropriate because it resulted in a "physical altercation."

Green also said that placing feet onto a vehicle car falls under TTC by-law no. 1, and can lead to a fine of $235.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

POLL: SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS ONLINE AT metronews.ca

Untangling west-end spaghetti

PLANNING

City starts construction in March on mess of roads

MAPPED | Here's a look at six planned changes for Six Points, and a sneak peek at the future downtown Etobicoke

Sarah-Joyce Battersby
Metro | Toronto

The city is poised to stick a fork in Etobicoke's "spaghetti junction."

A plan decades in the making will start major construction in March, tearing up roads near Kipling Station, including Bloor Street, Dundas Street West and Kipling Avenue.

The three-year, $75-million construction project will set the stage for development in the suburban enclave.

The plans will also return the neighbourhood to its former glory, when the movie theatre, since torn down, was the place to be, says local Coun. Justin Di Ciano.

"You took your first date to Westwood Theatre, you took your kids. This was that place where everybody came and congregated," Di Ciano told Metro. Di Ciano expects 15,000 to 20,000 people will move into the neighbourhood over the next 20 years, based on planning applications. Before anyone can move in, the complicated tangle of bridges, one-ways and looping ramps will be streamlined.

The roadwork is being dubbed Toronto's first "complete streets" build-out, with bike lanes, wider sidewalks and other features to transform the car-dominated concrete quagmire into a real dish.

1 Bridges

Existing bridges swooping around streets will be torn down and replaced with regular, at-grade intersections between Kipling Avenue, Bloor Street West and Dundas Street West.

2 Parks

More green space is part of the long-term plan for the site, including a new 2.5-acre park Coun. Di Ciano strongly supports.

3 Bike lanes

The new roads will feature bike lanes on Bloor Street West from Carysfort Road to Jopling Avenue and along the reconfigured Dundas Street West from Dunbloor Road to Paulart Drive.

4 Series of tubes

As roads are dug up, workers will lay a network of pipes that will connect parcels of land pegged for development so condos and other buildings can share heating, cooling and electricity infrastructure and tap into green-energy options.

5 Civic centre

A design competition is underway to build a new civic centre on the sight of the demolished Westwood Theatre. The winner should be selected by the end of April.

6 Workout

The YMCA is already exploring options to build a 60,000 sq. ft. facility at the corner of Kipling Street and Dundas Street West.

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Customers who do not qualify for Trade In Bonus Days must add a down payment equivalent to the Trade In Bonus Incentive to achieve stated pricing. Customers must take delivery on or before February 28, 2017 to be eligible for this incentive. Limited time offer may not be combined with certain other offers and cannot be redeemed for cash. General Motors of Canada Company reserves the right to modify, extend or terminate these offers, in whole or in part, at any time without prior notice. Conditions and limitations apply. See dealer for details. Offer valid at participating dealers to eligible retail lessees in Canada who enter into a lease agreement with GM Financial and who accept delivery between February 1 to February 28, 2017. Eligible **2017 Trax LS Air & Auto**: Lease based on MSRP of $24,544 and either $1,000 manufacturer-to-consumer (tax inclusive) Trade-In Bonus or additional $1,000 down payment in lieu of Trade-in Bonus. 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See dealer for details.[1]U.S. Government 5-Star Safety Ratings are part of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA's) New Car Assessment Program (www.SaferCar.gov).[2]Vehicle user interfaces are products of Apple and Google and their terms and privacy statements apply. Requires compatible smartphone and data plan rates apply.[3]Visit onstar.ca for coverage maps, details and system limitations. Service plan required. Available 4G LTE with Wi-Fi hotspot requires WPA2 compatible mobile device and data plan. Data plans provided by AT&T. Services vary by model, service plan, conditions as well as geographical and technical restrictions. OnStar with 4G LTE connectivity is available on select vehicle models and in select markets. Vehicle must be started or in accessory mode to access Wi-Fi. [4]The Chevrolet Equinox received the highest numerical scores among compact SUVs in the J.D. Power 2016 U.S. Vehicle Dependability Study, based on responses from 33,560 U.S. original owners of 2013 model-year vehicles after three years of ownership about problems experienced in the past 12 months, surveyed in October–December 2015. Your experiences may vary. Visit jdpower.com.[5]The Chevrolet Silverado 1500 received the lowest number of problems per 100 vehicles among large light duty pickups in the proprietary J.D. Power 2016 Initial Quality Study.SM Study based on responses from 84,367 new-vehicle owners, measuring 244 models and measures opinions after 90 days of ownership. Proprietary study results are based on experiences and perceptions of owners surveyed in February–May 2016. Your experiences may vary. Visit jdpower.com.[6]Requires Double Cab LTZ 2WD or Crew Cab Short Box LTZ 2WD with available 6.2L V8 engine and Max Trailering Package. Before you buy a vehicle or use it for trailering, carefully review the Trailering section of the Owner's Manual. The weight of passengers, cargo and options or accessories may reduce the amount you can tow.[7]Based on WardsAuto.com 2016 Large Pickup segment and latest competitive information available at time of printing. Excludes other GM models.◊The Chevrolet Spark, Chevrolet Equinox (tie), Chevrolet Silverado HD and LD, and Chevrolet Tahoe received the lowest number of problems per 100 vehicles in their respective segments in the J.D. Power 2016 U.S. Initial Quality Study, based on 80,157 total responses, evaluating 245 models, and measures the opinions of new 2016 U.S. vehicle owners after 90 days of ownership, surveyed in February–May 2016. Your experiences may vary. Visit jdpower.com. The Chevrolet Malibu, Chevrolet Equinox, Chevrolet Silverado HD, and Chevrolet Camaro received the highest numerical scores in their respective segments in the J.D. 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Distracted drivers get a wake-up call

SAFETY

Police borrow hearse to catch scofflaws and send a message

David Hains
Metro | Toronto

The Toronto Police Service wants distracted drivers to look death in the face.

As part of an awareness campaign, the force used a hearse as an unmarked police vehicle on Tuesday. The message: if you text and drive, this is where you could wind up.

"It's a wake-up call for everyone," said police spokesman Clint Stibbe. He said people should consider the different forms of distracted driving — texting, handling a coffee or talking on the phone — and the grave consequences those actions can have.

Stibbe pulled over three distracted drivers in the hearse. He says the drivers were surprised by the vehicle, which was emblazoned with a police logo.

The hearse was on loan from MacKinnon & Bowes, an Etobicoke-based funeral coach company. It's the third time TPS has used the vehicle as part of its distracted-driving awareness week.

Const. Clint Stibbe with a hearse used in a campaign aimed at reducing distracted driving. COURTESY TORONTO POLICE SERVICE

7,300

Collisions recorded in 2015 that were linked to inattentiveness, including 10 traffic fatalities related to distracted driving.

DON'T BEAR A GRUDGE **JUNO MOVING TO WINNIPEG** Time is running out to watch the Toronto Zoo's "vibrant" one-year-old polar bear cub playing around. The zoo announced Wednesday that Juno is moving to the Assiniboine Park Zoo in Winnipeg on March 1. The last chances to see Juno will be Saturday and Sunday at noon. CARLOS OSORIO/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

'Eating Segel' stunt goes viral

Noah Maloney eats a picture of Jason Segel Wednesday. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

There are worse ways to go viral: a Toronto comedian has achieved Internet infamy by vowing to eat a picture of Jason Segel every day until Segel eats a picture of him.

Noah Maloney, a 19-year-old Humber College comedy student, posted a video on YouTube last Thursday in which he methodically chews and swallows a headshot of the Forgetting Sarah Marshall star over the unhurried course of four-plus minutes. It's been viewed more than 550,000 times.

Each day since, Maloney has posted a new video in which he consumes a photograph of Segel, in increasingly creative circumstances.

Maloney is part of a trio of comedians devoted to making the "worst best crap we can make" whose YouTube channel, Dog Shirt, has steadily built a following.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Trevor Nicholls in one of his homeless-branded shirts from Homeless Toronto website. EDUARDO LIMA/METRO

'Homeless' brand shocks

CONTROVERSY

Social media backlash leaves web merchant on the defence

May Warren
Metro | Toronto

A new Toronto website selling homeless-branded merchandise has caused an uproar, but the creator says it's all a misunderstanding.

The site features shirts with "homeless" written on them, as well as mugs with the phrase "change please" and images of a model lounging on a dirty mattress. Other shirts are styled to look dirty or tattered.

Yogi Acharya of the Ontario Coalition Against Poverty called the site "offensive."

"At a time when homeless people are dying in the streets, what's needed is for the city to open desperately needed beds — and not exploitative charity from would-be entrepreneurs who seek to make fashion out of human suffering," wrote organizer Yogi Acharya in an email.

Trevor Nicholls told Metro he's behind the site, along with a small group of friends. He said he has experienced homelessness and plans to donate 40 per cent of the profits toward homeless youth.

> **We're actually trying to give back.**
> Trevor Nicholls

"The whole reason we started this brand is to give back," said the 27-year-old, calling the backlash "more of a misunderstanding."

Nicholls said he's planning to donate to the shelter Eva's Place but hasn't worked out the details yet.

The site was launched just a few weeks ago, and the blowback has "made it clear that there's definitely a lot of questions that need answering," he added.

Alanna Scott, director of development and campaigns for Eva's Place, said she just learned about the interest today from the media, and the shelter is not currently in any partnership with the site.

Eva's Place requires transparency on the percentage of funds that would be donated and that products and messaging "reflect our goals of supporting the dignity and bright futures of youth who are experiencing homelessness," she added.

Sarah Shepherd, who has worked in the field of poverty and housing, said that while intentions may be good she objects to "branding" homelessness.

"I find it really disturbing because I see it as being exploitation," she said.

"If what they were doing was creating shirts that said, 'Adequate housing now', that wouldn't sell."

Toronto DIGEST

Toronto Hells Angels 'bunker' demolished
The former clubhouse of Toronto's Hells Angels is no more. Construction crews spent two weeks razing the two-storey cinderblock house near Logan and Eastern avenues. With steel doors, windows strung with wire, and concrete barriers, it's no wonder Toronto media outlets often referred to it as a "bunker."
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Leaders decry anti-Semitism in North York
Politicians and Jewish leaders condemn anti-Semitic notes left at a North York condo building.

Residents of 233 Beecroft Rd. saw notes on their doors reading "No Jews" above a swastika. "There is no place for these acts of hatred, the acts of discrimination, these acts of anti-Semitism," Mayor John Tory said.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Teacher found guilty of misconduct
A high school teacher who disrupted a vaccine clinic and told students vaccinations could lead to death has been found guilty of professional misconduct by the Ontario College of Teachers. Timothy Sullivan left the room after the verdict. He may have to take courses in ethics and anger management.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Barking up the wrong Siberian Elm
A 70-year-old Siberian Elm survives after a clash between David Sher — who filed an application to remove it — and the neighbours who own it. JeanAnn Stewart warned Sher she would call police if he was caught trespassing. The city issued a letter to Stewart last month saying Sher would get a permit to remove the tree. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Liberals defend new border deal

TRAVEL

Opposition says bill fails to take Trump into account

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau defended his government's proposed legislation to expand border preclearance at Canadian airports and other crossings Wednesday as the opposition New Democrats pushed to stop the bill in its tracks.

The NDP argued the bill doesn't take into account what it called "the climate of uncertainty at the border" created by the Trump administration's immigration policies.

But Trudeau suggested it's better to be cleared for entry into the United States while in Canada, because travellers are protected under the Canadian charter of rights, as opposed to American laws.

Bill C-23, the Preclearance Act, came up for second reading in the House of Commons on Tuesday.

Introduced by Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale last June, it would replace and expand provisions of the Air Transport Preclearance Agreement signed between Canada and the United States in 2001.

> **We have serious concerns about these new powers being given to American agents.**
> Matthew Dube

The two countries signed a new agreement in 2015 to expand border clearance. Proponents say measures included in the bill will speed the flow of people and goods across the border.

Under preclearance, travellers don't have to pass through customs in the U.S. because they've already done so before departing Canada.

Critics have concerns about the legislation, arguing that it would lead to the erosion of rights of people travelling both to the United States and Canada.

The bill "does not address Canadians' concerns about being interrogated, detained and turned back at the border based on race, religion, travel history or birthplace as a result of policies that may contravene the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms," NDP public-safety critic Matthew Dube said in putting forward a motion that could effectively kill the bill.

"What we're seeing right now is a reality where people are being discriminated against at the border," Dube told reporters.

Dube cited the example of a Vancouver man who said he was turned away from a border crossing after a U.S. Customs and Border Patrol officer scoured his cellphone for recent messages.

The officer suspected the man was a sex worker based on one email, the man reportedly told Daily Xtra. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Brewing a barter system

OTTAWA

The MacDonalds trade their old for stuff for java — and more

Alex Parsons
For Metro | Ottawa

Cost of two medium Tim Horton's coffees: $3.58. Value of potential return, in cool old stuff and the company of an nice elderly couple: Priceless.

Rod and Marguerite MacDonald are retired federal government workers who have been trading old, kitschy wares for cups of Joe, conversation and, occasionally, food.

"It's almost a cashless society now," Rod MacDonald said. "Older people have money in their pocket, younger people don't. I think the barter economy has come on."

He said the whole thing started when they began renovating their house in early February and were pulling things out of storage. Marguerite put an ad on the "free stuff" section of Kijiji: "Could you bring my hubby and I a coffee?'"

Rod MacDonald shows off items he has been posting online to trade for coffees, at his home in Ottawa. JUSTIN TANG/FOR METRO

"That day we had four people coming over, bringing us coffee, and they got great value for a coffee," MacDonald said.

"After three or four coffees, my stomach was a little upset — you know, rumbling away — so I said, 'Honey, let's change it to a Big Mac,' and before you know it, I had a Big Mac delivered at 4:30."

> **Older people have money in their pocket, younger people don't.**
> Rod MacDonald

Among the items that have been offered up so far are historical pictures, including one of a shelled French village from World War I, an aerial view of Parliament Hill from the 1950s and a painting of the Rideau Canal done by one of MacDonald's brothers.

The couple also advertised "a bunch of 50 year old stamps" and a variety of other collectibles. "Remnants from garage sales," Rod calls them.

While he's most interested in bartering, Rod sometimes also sells. As an avid coin collector, he often deals within that community. When he sells, he said, the money goes towards helping out his family.

"We have a pension, but with growing children there's costs for family, and there's people in your family that if you have money you should help as well," MacDonald said. "My wife's sister is disabled, and so is my brother. So some of the money goes towards them if we do sales, and some we keep ourselves."

He said he still has many things to give away, but likes to group items together before posting ads to give people a variety of things to choose from.

Canada digest

Ontario, Victoria and CRA feted for wasteful spending

Ontario's government, the City of Victoria and the Canada Revenue Agency have won awards for wasteful spending, as judged by the Canadian Taxpayers Federation.

Ontario won two Teddy awards. One is for the province's electric-vehicle incentive program, while the other is a lifetime achievement award for its energy policy.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quebec teacher up for $1-million prize

A teacher from northern Quebec is in the running for the prestigious $1-million Global Teacher Prize.

Maggie MacDonnell has been named a top-10 finalist for the award, administered by The Varkey Foundation, a non-profit group that focuses on education issues.

MacDonnell, raised in rural Nova Scotia, was chosen from among 20,000 initial nominations and applications from 179 countries.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Actually, it's not so lonely out in space

ASTRONOMY

Discovered: seven worlds, and some could support life

An artist's conception of what the surface of the exoplanet TRAPPIST-1f may look like, based on data about its diameter, mass and distances from the host star. NASA/JPL-CALTECH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

For the first time, astronomers have discovered seven Earth-size planets orbiting a single nearby star — and these new worlds could hold life.

This cluster of planets is less than 40 light-years from Earth, or 235 trillion miles away, in the constellation Aquarius, according to NASA and the Belgian-led research team who announced the discovery Wednesday.

The planets circle tightly around a dim dwarf star called Trappist-1, barely the size of Jupiter. Three are in the so-called habitable zone, the area around a star where water and, possibly life, might exist. The others are right on the doorstep.

Scientists said they need to study the atmospheres before determining whether these rocky, terrestrial planets could support some sort of life. But it already shows just how many Earth-size planets could be out there — especially in a star's sweet spot, ripe for extraterrestrial life. The more planets like this, the greater the potential of finding one that's truly habitable. Until now, only two or three Earth-size planets had been spotted around a star.

"We've made a crucial step toward finding if there is life out there," said the University of Cambridge's Amaury Triaud, one of the researchers.

The potential for more Earth-size planets in our Milky Way galaxy is mind-boggling. The history of planet-searching shows "when there's one, there's more," said Massachusetts Institute of Technology astrophysicist Sara Seager.

"With this amazing system, we know that there must be many more potentially life-bearing worlds out there just waiting to be found," she said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. ADMINISTRATION

Trump to lift trans bathroom guidance

The Trump administration will revoke federal guidelines that tell public schools to let transgender students use bathrooms and locker rooms matching their chosen gender identity, the White House said Wednesday.

The decision would be a reversal of an Obama-era directive advising public schools to grant bathroom access to students in line with their expressed gender identity and not necessarily the gender on their birth certificate.

White House spokesman Sean Spicer said Wednesday that the previous administration's guidelines were confusing and hard to implement and that new directives would be issued later in the day. A government official with direct knowledge of the plans told The Associated Press that the Obama-era guidance would be rescinded, though anti-bullying safeguards would not be affected. The official was not authorized to speak publicly about the plans and did so on condition of anonymity.

Although the Obama guidance carried no force of law, transgender rights advocates say it was necessary to protect students from discrimination. Opponents argued it was overreach and said it violated the safety and privacy of all other students.

> "Certain issues like this are not best dealt with at the federal level."
> Sean Spicer

Spicer said that the Departments of Justice and Education were working together on the new document.

"The president has made it clear throughout the campaign that he is a firm believer in states' rights," he said.

The Obama administration's guidance was based on its determination that the federal law prohibiting sex discrimination also applies to gender identity. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Bomber had been freed from Gitmo

IRAQ

Concerns over how Britain lost track after man's release

Daesh identified the bomber as Abu Zakariya al-Britani. British officials confirmed the man was a Briton also known as Ronald Fiddler and Jamal al-Harith. NINAWA STATE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A suicide bomber who attacked a military base in Iraq this week was a former Guantanamo Bay detainee freed in 2004 after Britain lobbied for his release, raising questions about the ability of security services to track the whereabouts of potential terrorists.

Daesh identified the bomber as Abu Zakariya al-Britani, and two British security officials also confirmed the man was a 50-year-old Briton formerly known as Ronald Fiddler and as Jamal al-Harith.

He was one of 16 men paid a total of 10 million pounds (now worth $12.4 million) in compensation in 2010, when the British government settled a lawsuit alleging its intelligence agencies were complicit in the torture of prisoners at Guantanamo Bay, according to the officials.

Al-Harith was a web designer and convert to Islam when he set off on a visit to a religious retreat in Pakistan in October 2001.

He was detained at gunpoint near the border with Afghanistan and turned over to the Taliban. A couple of months later he was liberated by the Northern Alliance but was turned over to the Americans and sent to Guantanamo Bay. Like many others, he claims he was tortured there.

Al-Harith and 15 others had sued the British government, alleging it knew about or was complicit in their treatment.

Arthur Snell, a former head of the Prevent program, which is part of the Britain's counter terrorism strategy, said the authorities clearly had lost track of him. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

North Korea mocks poison plot claims

The two women suspected of fatally poisoning a scion of North Korea's ruling family were trained to coat their hands with toxic chemicals and then wipe them on his face, police in Malaysia said Wednesday, announcing they were seeking a North Korean diplomat in connection with the attack.

But the North Korean Embassy ridiculed the police account of Kim Jong Nam's death at a Malaysian airport, demanding the immediate release of the two "innocent women."

If the toxins had been on their hands "then how is it possible that these female suspects could still be alive?" demanded a statement from North Korea's embassy in Kuala Lumpur. Police say the women — one of them Indonesian, the other Vietnamese — washed their hands soon after poisoning Kim, the long-estranged half brother of the North Korean ruler. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The University of Toronto, Faculty of Dentistry's Continuing Dental Education Department is recruiting volunteers to act as patients in an upcoming program! Licensed Dentists will be administering a moderate sedation to patient volunteers under the supervision of Faculty Professionals. The course is designed to teach practicing dentists to provide sleep dentistry to patients that find dental treatment to be very stressful.

Please note: Must be 18 years and older to apply and have no significant health issues. Not all patients who apply will be accepted. Patients will be screened on their suitability to the goals of the educational program. Treatment appointments will be provided during the week of June 12th & June 17th, 2017 only.

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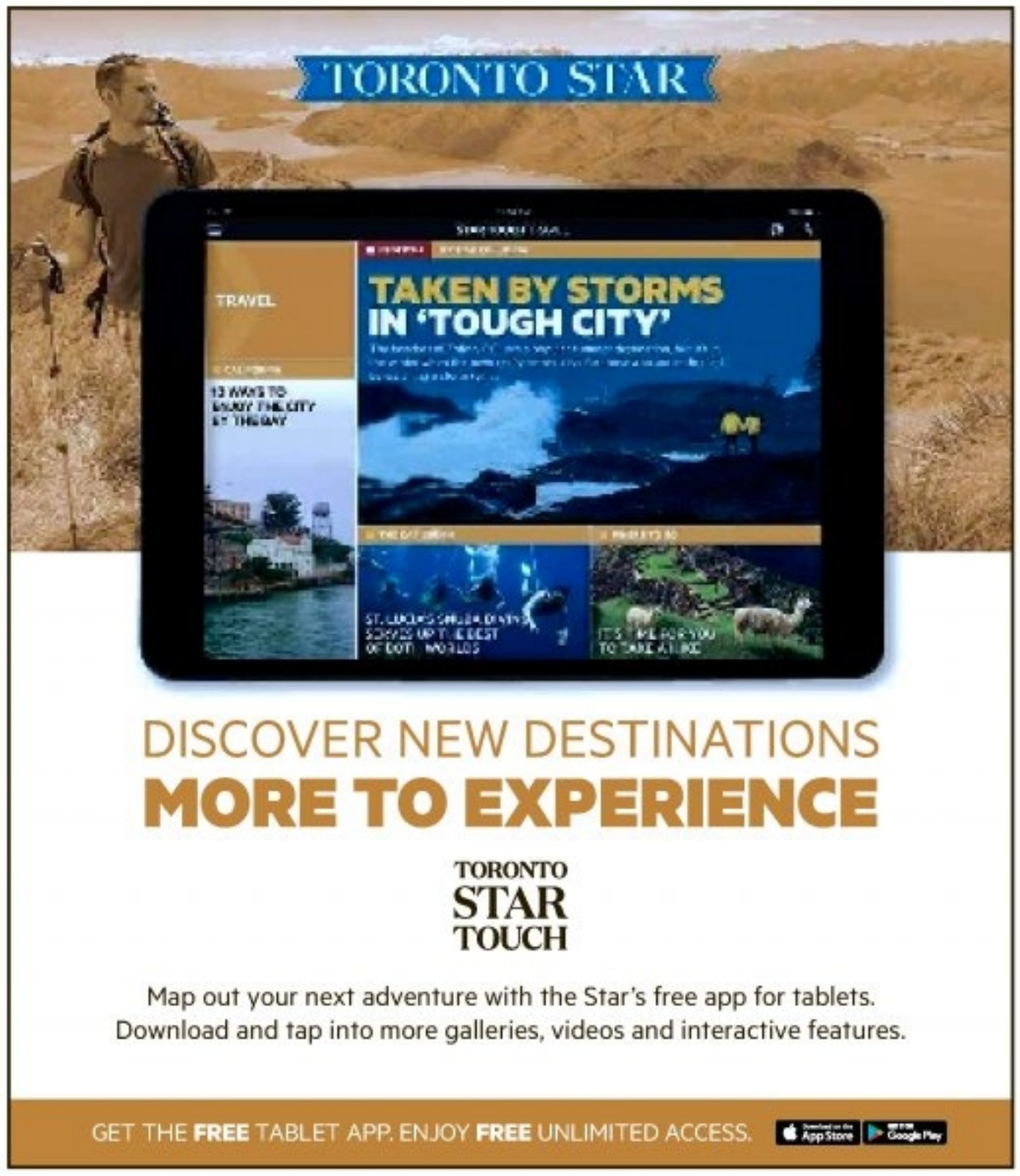

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PHILOSOPHER CAT by Jason Logan

CHANTAL HÉBERT ON POST-BUDGET BYELECTIONS

Only sure-things are up for grabs, but what's lost will be personal

Under the guise of the first large set of byelections since Justin Trudeau became prime minister, voters are about to turn a definitive corner on generational change on Parliament Hill.

The vote to take place on April 3 in the immediate aftermath of the federal budget in five ridings spread across Quebec, Ontario and Alberta will not — despite the hype — amount to a major test of the government or, for that matter, the Conservative official Opposition.

Three of the ridings at play are among the safest Liberal seats in the land. At the worst of times for the party, in 2011, the ridings all returned Liberal MPs with a relatively comfortable majority.

The other two are Conservative fortresses set in Alberta — the province that has been most resilient, according to the polls on voting intentions, to Trudeau's sunny ways.

If Trudeau failed to hold Ottawa-Vanier, Saint-Laurent and Markham-Thornhill on April 3, it would not be a leap to conclude that there is not a safe Liberal seat in the country. Ditto for the Conservatives in the case of Calgary Midnapore and Calgary Heritage.

What makes this set of byelections special is not its probable non-impact on the make-up of the House of Commons but rather the big shoes that the incumbents are leaving behind for others to try to fill.

The April 3 vote marks the end of an era in more ways than one.

Stephen Harper initially came to the House of Commons as part of the contingent of Reform MPs that took the Hill by storm in 1993. He was the last of them to be elected — in Calgary Heritage — in 2015. In between, he did fulfil the core Reform promise to bring Alberta and Western Canada into the federal power loop. His constituents sent him off in style, with almost two-thirds of the votes cast in the riding in the last election.

Of the Quebec federal ministers who stared down into the post-referendum abyss Stéphane Dion was the last to still hold a seat.

On his first day as Jean Chrétien's post-referendum point minister, shortly after the 1995 referendum, Dion had said he was coming to Ottawa to change the reality of the country. Suffice it to say that, as the voters of Saint-Laurent get set to replace him, there has not been at the cabinet table a so-called unity minister for more than a decade. With Dion gone, that sweater may have to be retired.

Jason Kenney and John McCallum both made a mark, in different ways, as immigration ministers.

The first brought Canada's ethnically diverse communities inside the federal party's tent in a way that no other Conservative had in the past. Based on the fear-mongering undertone of the ongoing federal leadership campaign, it may take more than a new Conservative MP for the riding of Calgary-Midnapore to preserve that legacy.

McCallum presided over the execution of Justin Trudeau's signature promise to bring in more Syrian refugees. From his new diplomatic perch in Beijing, he will get to see whether that initiative marked the end of a more innocent age or the opposite. By moving on now, he may well have dodged a major refugee crisis.

As MP for Ottawa-Vanier Mauril Bélanger was very much the voice of Ontario's francophone community in Parliament, and it is a mantle he wore with grace.

The Liberals would like to give the Conservatives a bit of a run for their money in Calgary. They have an embarrassment of riches when it comes to potential candidates in Saint-Laurent but also a potential embarrassment to resolve.

Yolande James — Quebec's former immigration minister — is one of three candidates vying to run for the Liberals in Dion's riding. In her previous political incarnation, she twice supported the decision to deny access to French-language courses to a woman who insisted on wearing a niqab to class. That could put her on a collision course with Trudeau on a defining issue for the prime minister.

The NDP ran a distant second or third in all five ridings. It does not really have a dog in this fight. Things will be different if outgoing NDP leader Thomas Mulcair ever puts the riding of Outremont in play by deciding to not serve a full term as MP.

Chantal Hébert is a national affairs writer. Her column appears in Metro every Thursday.

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'60s Scoop pay back needs to get on track

Vicky Mochama
Metro

In a deserved act of justice, Sixties Scoop survivors won a $1.3-billion class action against the federal government last week in an Ontario court. It's a relief to hear Indigenous Affairs Minister Carolyn Bennett say the government won't appeal the ruling.

But if the feds are really committed to truth and reconciliation, they must stand down the lawyers as the settlements are doled out.

Bennett's statement points to a relationship between Indigenous plaintiffs and the federal government that is still fraught.

This Sixties Scoop case was filed in 2009. Only in the week prior to the ruling did Ottawa announce a sudden shift: now, they were willing to negotiate the claims of Indigenous children who had been removed from their families and adopted into non-Indigenous homes.

On this abrupt shift in tactics, the minister told the House, "We are adversaries no more," and "negotiation rather than litigation is our government's preferred route to settle these differences and right historical wrongs."

What a surprise that must have been to the Sixties Scoop survivors who, as recently as December, had been in court while government lawyers argued that Canada had no "duty of care" for these Indigenous children.

Despite public claims towards working on a nation-to-nation approach, lawyers for the Liberal government were continuing to defend against cases brought by Indigenous peoples.

Take the residential schools class action — the largest in Canadian history. The settlements, now over $3 billion, provide for residential school survivors who experienced sexual and physical abuse. The agreement established the Independent Assessment Process, which was meant to provide a speedy out-of-court process for paying damages. Yet, lawyers for the government used the IAP to split hairs, leading to claims to be reduced or dismissed.

Despite a hard-fought agreement on residential schools, the government and its lawyers sought to shirk their responsibilities within it.

So while the Sixties Scoop ruling is a clear win for Indigenous people, it must be met with a government commitment to not penny-pinch, obfuscate or complicate.

That is a commitment that First Nations children have been waiting for. Over a year ago, the Human Rights Tribunal ruled that Ottawa was discriminating against First Nations kids by failing to provide equal welfare.

A year later, the case is back before the tribunal.

Canada has been very good at recording its systematic cruelty towards Indigenous people. And yet many have survived in spite of said cruelty.

After decades of forcing survivors to repeatedly relive traumas, it's time for the lawyers to step back and for the government to step up.

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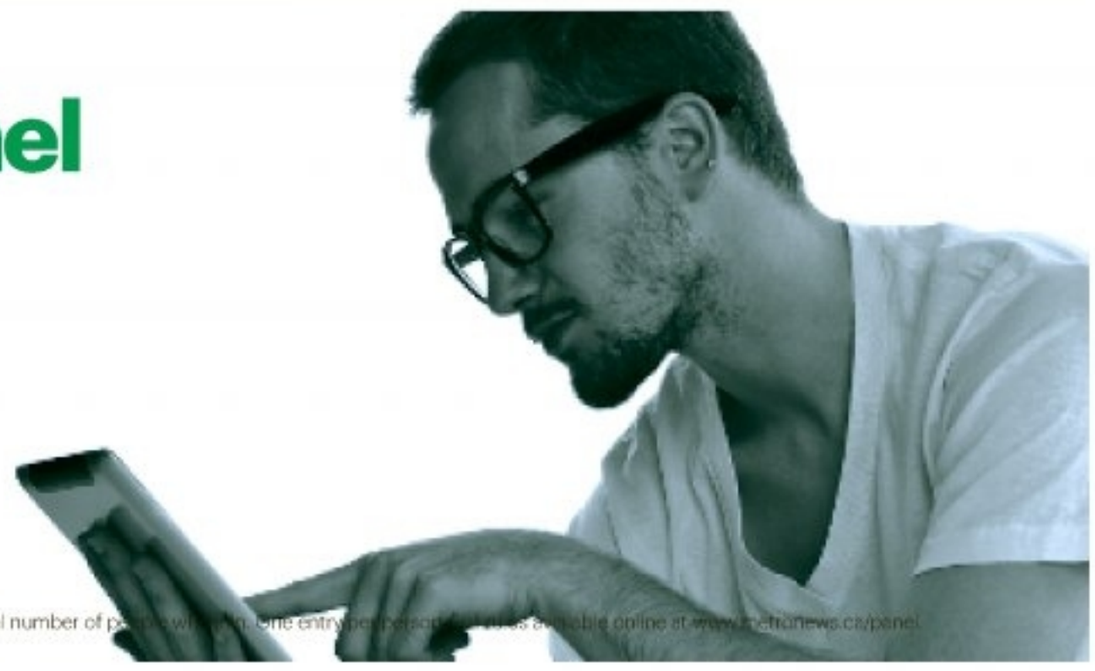

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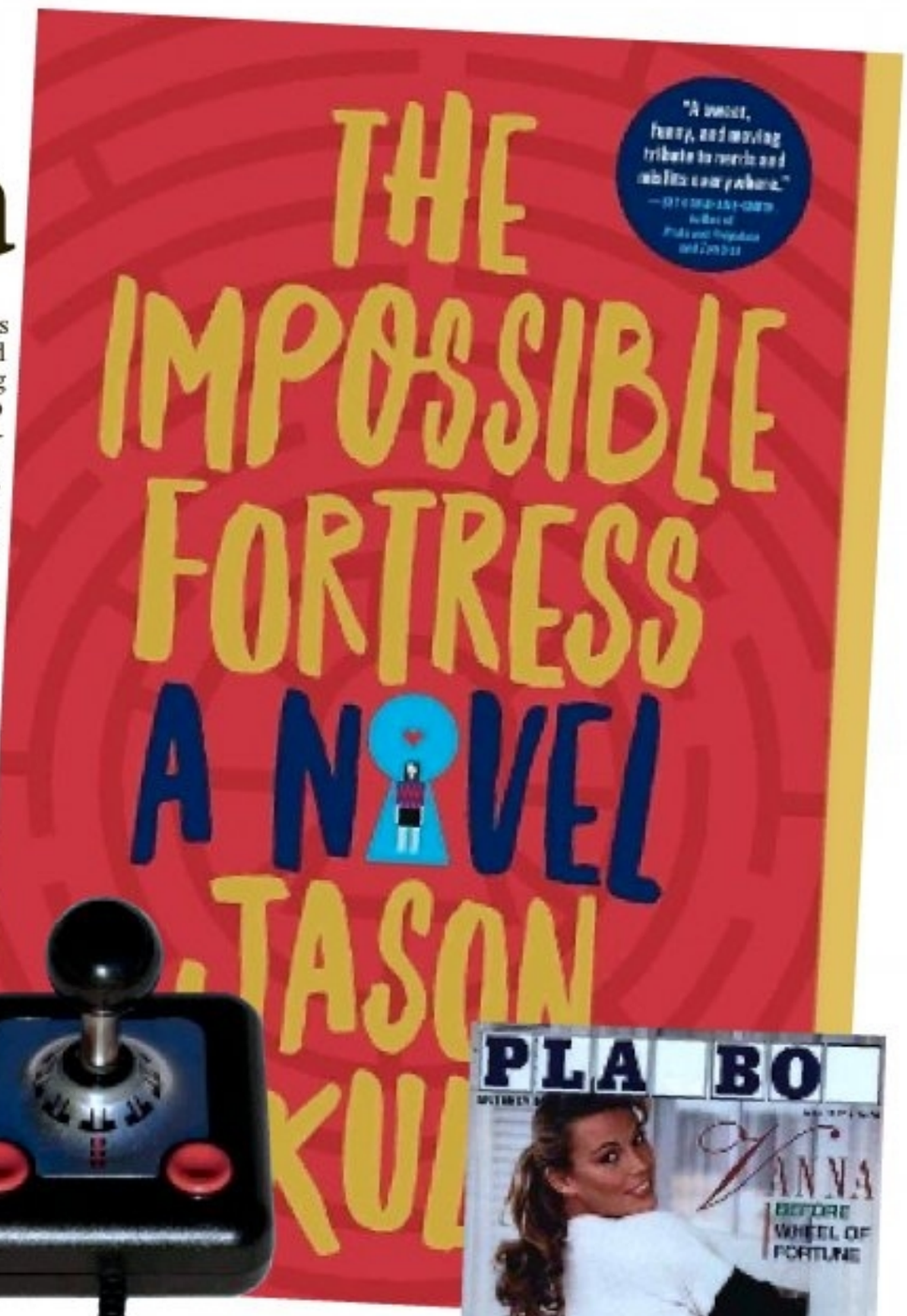
metro LIFE

Your essential daily news

Thursday, February 23, 2017

Jay Z will become the first rapper ever inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame when he enters the prestigious organization in June.

Cracking code of a fortress of nostalgia



INTERVIEW

Jason Rekulak's writing debut dives back into '80s childhood

Sue Carter
For Metro Canada

America's favourite letter-turner, Vanna White, nearly lost her golden-girl image when she appeared on the cover of the May 1987 issue of Playboy.

The racy photos were scandalous to many loyal Wheel of Fortune viewers, but for three hormonal teenage boys, getting hold of a copy of the coveted magazine turned into the setup for the biggest, most risky caper of their young lives.

No, that's not a premise from a long-lost John Hughes screenplay, but the opening to Jason Rekulak's debut novel, The Impossible Fortress, a geeky but sweet coming-of-age love story set in motion by the boys' desperate attempts to peek inside Playboy.

Billy — who is just as obsessed with programming crude video games on his Commodore 64 as he is with Vanna's nakedness — along with his pals, Clark and Alf, plan a heist that involves breaking into Zelinsky's convenience store to grab a copy of the magazine.

Billy is tasked with seducing Zelinky's daughter, Mary, to get the store's security code, but as it turns out, she too is a whip-smart computer coder, and they become fast friends. The duo starts working together on the titular game, The Impossible Fortress (which is available to play on the website jasonrekulak.com), when Billy falls in love, and the lure of Vanna in lingerie begins to fade.

Rekulak doesn't consider himself a nostalgic guy, but was feeling so when he started writing The Impossible Fortress. After his father became ill, Rekulak returned to his hometown, on which the book's fictional location Wentbridge — referred to as the Armpit of New Jersey — was modelled. He was spending a lot of time at the hospital with his dad, and while there, bought a notebook from the gift shop.

"I started writing down stories of all these people I was seeing under very unfortunate circumstances," he says. "Some of them were real and some were made up. Maybe it was a therapeutic exercise, but also proof you can write anywhere."

Like Billy, Rekulak was once a young self-taught programmer, but later switched his computer science major to English in second-year university.

It was writing video games that set Rekulak on the path to becoming an author, and to his current job as publisher of the Philadelphia press Quirk Books, where he's edited blockbusters like Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children and Pride and Prejudice and Zombies.

"I wanted to build all these worlds and tell all these stories, but I was never really good at coding or actually programming stuff," Rekulak says. The graphics on the early games Rekulak built were so simple, he added screens and screens of text to build out the stories. "I'd write these long histories of these stick figures," he says. "It gave me this freedom and confidence to write on screen."

Rekulak — who is definitely a kid of the '80s — filled The Impossible Fortress with pop-culture gems from his own life, from Freddy Krueger to Magnum P.I., but was never concerned about explaining the references to younger, millennial-aged readers, who have never dialled a rotary phone, or used a floppy disk.

It takes him back to his own teen years, reading Stephen King's 1982 novella, The Body (which became the 1986 movie Stand By Me). He recalls not understanding all of King's references to 1950s culture, yet it didn't hinder his enjoyment of the book.

In fact, he re-read it while working on The Impossible Fortress.

Rekulak says, "I was thinking that if Stephen King can do that for the '50s, I can do that for the '80s."

Sue Carter is the editor at Quill & Quire magazine.

I was thinking that if Stephen King can do that for the '50s, I can do it for the '80s.
Jason Rekulak

Vanna White's Playboy cover and '80s video games are central to the plot of Jason Rekulak's debut novel The Impossible Fortress.
CONTRIBUTED/PLAYBOY/FILE

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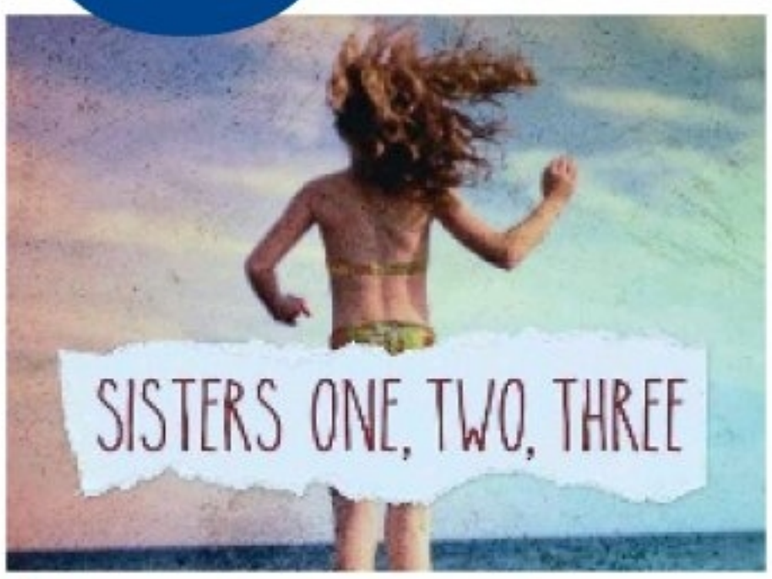
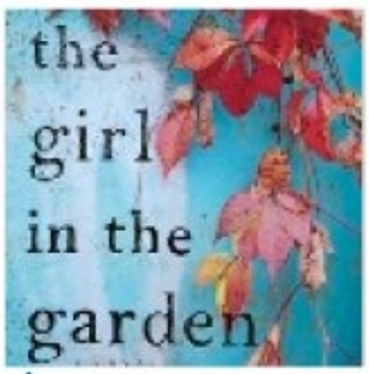
5 BOOKS EXPLORING THE DYNAMICS OF DIVERSE FAMILIES

We don't need to tell you that families come in many shapes and forms. From Victorian England to an experiment in utopian parenting and plenty in between, here are five new books that remind us all that there really is no such thing as a traditional family unit. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



1 Tangled ties of sisterhood

A tragic accident occurred when the Tangle family of New Jersey — father Solly, mother Glory and four kids ranging from 13 to 6 — went to Martha's Vineyard on vacation in the 1970s, a life-altering event that marked each of the three Tangle daughters in different ways as adults. **Sisters One, Two, Three** is a fine multi-generational family story about the ties between sisters and the need to confront past trauma. Author Nancy Star is a former movie executive and this is her fifth novel.



2 Surrogate guardians

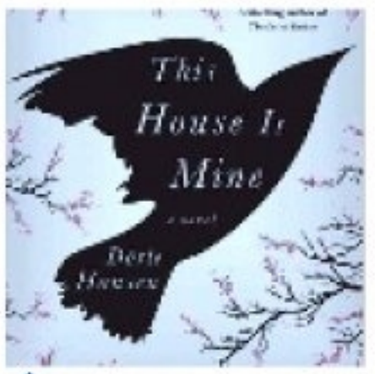
In Melanie Wallace's **The Girl In The Garden**, an abandoned young mother and her baby arrive on the New England coast and are soon adopted by locals who have known one another for decades. This diverse group of surrogate guardians includes, a recluse, a prodigal daughter, a widow, a veteran and a lawyer — each with his or her own passions and secrets. Wallace has written The Housekeeper and Blue Horse Dreaming.

3 Collective parenting

The Infinite Family Project, headed by the well-meaning though awkward psychologist Preston Grind, is a utopian experiment in collective parenting, perhaps even a model for a well-adjusted life. Ten families have been selected, each with one child, including the central character in Kevin Wilson's **Perfect Little World**, Izzy Poole, the only single mother in the group. Wilson is attracted to stories involving unconventional child-rearing.

4 A very Victorian clan

Cambridge professor Simon Goldhill's **A Very Queer Family Indeed** introduces us to this odd family with a kiss, in 1853, between Edward White Benson, 23, and his future wife, Minnie Sidgwick, then 12. They married when she was 18 and in short order had six children. Edward became Archbishop of Canterbury; Minnie (Mary) left Edward and the kids when she found she much preferred women.



5 Forging a new belonging

This House Is Mine is the story of two women who find each other and forge a family. Vera arrived at the old farmhouse in East Prussia as a five-year-old refugee 60 years ago — and, to this day, remains a stranger. As the story opens, her niece, Anne, and her young son arrive at the house after fleeing the Hamburg neighbourhood where Anne, too, has never felt she belonged. Things unfold from their alternating perspectives.

JOHANNA SCHNELLER WHAT I'M WATCHING

The episode Dunham was born to direct

THE SHOW: Girls, Season 6, Episode 3
THE MOMENT: Hannah's face

Hannah (series creator Lena Dunham) wrote a blog that went viral about a famous novelist (The Americans' Matthew Rhys) whom four women have accused of sexual misconduct. He invited her to his elegant apartment. For the entire episode, he explains his position (he didn't pressure the women; they made their own choices), and she explains hers (pressure isn't always apparent). Both are equally articulate and respectful.

Near the end, they lie on his bed. "I'm sorry I wrote something about you that upset you so much without considering all the facts," Hannah says.

"That's all right, I'm not angry," he replies. Then he does something, and she does something, that surprises her. She springs off the bed.

At that moment, his daughter comes home. She wants to play her flute for him, and invites Hannah to stay. As Hannah watches the novelist watch his daughter, the camera slowly moves in, parsing her expression.

This is the episode Dunham was born to write. This is the issue Girls grabbed the zeitgeist to address, in all its thorny complexity. The back and forth is electric, yet scrupulously fair. In this series' final season, Hannah is growing up, and we see that here.

I watched this with my 23-year-old daughter, and we had different reactions to Hannah's expression: Is she angry at the novelist? At herself? Or is there acceptance? Social media is going to go nuts.

Just as you're making up your mind, Dunham delivers one more tracking shot. It will stop you cold.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

Lena Dunham and Matthew Rhys's back and forth in the latest Girls episode is electric, yet scrupulously fair. CONTRIBUTED

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metro HOME

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Billie Lourd, actor and daughter of Carrie Fisher, lists Santa Monica home for $2.4M

Transit driving new development

CONDO TRENDS

Condos rising before new lines even break ground

Duncan McAllister
For Metro Canada

As with the famous line from the movie Field of Dreams, if you build it, they will come. That's the meme for several new GTA transit initiatives which are the catalysts for new condo development.

One such example is the new the Eglinton Crosstown LRT that will connect with the Yonge Street subway and link 54 local bus routes along its length. The result has been a flurry of condo construction around the coveted intersection of Yonge and Eglinton.

The new Plaza Midtown condos boasts a Walkscore of 99, and its two towers will augment this rapidly evolving neighbourhood. The towers will rise 34 and 27 storeys and feature eight townhouses at the base.

Further east, the Scarborough subway extension is part of a rapid transit solution for Scarborough that is currently being studied.

The City of Toronto, together with the TTC, is planning an extension to the Bloor-Danforth line that would serve Scarborough residents.

The St. Clair streetcar right-of-way has brought a host of new condo developments along its route, including Scoop (above). Developments near the Weston Road Union-Pearson Express terminal will also benefit from proximity to the line. CONTRIBUTED

The service promises to usher in a real estate renaissance for one of Toronto's oldest suburbs. Already, Gemterra has introduced LOVE condominiums and townhomes to the neighbourhood at the heart of Scarborough at Kennedy and Sheppard.

Big things are happening at Vaughan City Centre as a result of the new 8.6-kilometre subway extension with six new stations and a regional transportation hub.

One of the first developments is The Met, a new transit-oriented project from Plaza and Berkley Developments, with a prime location close to the emerging city centre.

The new Union-Pearson Express train has only two stops along the line, which makes it a sort of downtown express for residents living nearby.

Projects like Triumph Developments' Howard Park Residences in Roncy Village, is a four-minute walk from the Bloor Street terminal. And Pianosi's Perspective Condominiums along the Humber River, is near the Weston Road UP terminal and will benefit from the proximity.

Also underway are the three-storey townhomes of W Towns on Weston Road by First Avenue Properties with a total of 48 units near the Weston terminal. The St. Clair streetcar right-of-way runs from Yonge Street to west of Keele Street, and has become home to a host of new condo developments along its route. One such project is Scoop Condominiums by Graywood Developments, a new contemporary midrise.

The boutique six-storey building is located in the heart of West St. Clair West community and will have 72 units with retail shops at street level.

INVENTORY CRISIS

Government needs to recognize housing supply problem

Bryan Tuckey
For Metro Canada

The provincial government recently promised action on skyrocketing hydro rates, now we need them to turn their attention to our housing supply crisis and resulting pricing challenges in the GTA.

Like hydro, housing prices in the GTA and surrounding areas have risen significantly over the past decade. As with electricity, government policy is a major contributor to the increase in prices. Government policies have both directly and indirectly impacted the supply of housing in the region. We are not building enough housing to support our growing population or consumer demand and as a result the price of housing has skyrocketed.

A couple of recent studies have brought to light how bad our housing challenges are. According to the 13th Annual Demographia Housing Affordability Survey, Toronto has the distinction of being the world's 13th least affordable housing market. We came in just behind London.

Meanwhile, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation released a report a few weeks ago that flagged how GTA supply woes and pricing challenges are impacting the outer reaches of the Greater Golden Horseshoe and increasing home prices in markets as far away as the St. Catharines-Niagara region and Kitchener-Waterloo.

We all know how hard and expensive it has become to buy a home in the GTA. Despite unprecedented prices, fewer people are listing their homes and there are far more people looking to buy homes than there are homes for sale.

On the new homes side, builders and developers are quickly selling any product that they can bring to the market and builder inventories are at unprecedented lows. Today there are fewer than half the number of new homes available in builder inventories than there were a decade ago.

In the GTA in December 2006, there were 11,602 new single-family detached homes available to purchase in builder inventories. In January 2017, there were 543.

I hear stories from our members about would-be home buyers sleeping in their cars so that they can be near the front of the line when the sales office opens. Some members are forgoing traditional sales launches all together because they have hundreds of potential buyers registered for every home in the development and they don't want to disappoint buyers they can't accommodate.

We are the land development and home building industry, why don't we just launch more projects and build more homes? Unfortunately there are many barriers in the way, most of which government could help us resolve.

Some of the solutions, such as fixing the approvals process by reducing excessive red tape and modernizing local zoning bylaws so that they align with provincial intensification policy, could be achieved without additional costs.

The time has come to acknowledge that we have a housing problem in the GTA. It is time for government to recognize that we can all work together on solutions to address our housing supply crisis so that today's new home buyers and future generations have a place to live and access to homes they can afford to purchase.

BRYAN TUCKEY IS PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE BUILDING INDUSTRY AND LAND DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION AND A LAND-USE PLANNER WHO HAS WORKED FOR MUNICIPAL, REGIONAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS. FOLLOW HIM ON TWITTER @BILDGTA, FACEBOOK.COM/BILDGTA AND BILDBLOGS.CA.

LEGAL MATTERS

Advice on not using a real estate agent

Jeffrey Cowan
For Metro Canada

Q: We own an investment condo that has been tenanted for a couple of years. The young tenants have expressed an interest in purchasing the condo from us and, in all honesty, they have been good tenants and the price they are offering seems fair. It would mean not having to worry about the rent and our mortgage on the property would be paid off (with a decent profit from when we purchased it). Can this be done without using a realtor and what should we be careful about if we do a private sale?

A: You can never underestimate the usefulness and experience of a realtor when selling property. Many have years of experience and knowledge that will allow you to get the maximum the sale price for your property. However, if you know you're getting a fair price for your condo and you are certain your tenants have the capital to complete the transaction, you can handle the transaction yourself. The key is to have your lawyer review any contracts or agreements of purchase and sale that the buyers put on the table. You should never handle this yourself because real estate is one of the most heavily litigated areas of law (due to the expensive nature of the transactions). Typically, I would suggest the purchaser bear the cost of drafting the agreement and have your lawyer review the documents before you sign.

The deposit should be between 5 and 10 per cent of the purchase price and always made payable to your lawyer — in trust. That way, if the deal falls through, you and your counsel have control of those funds. Good luck!

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Midrise in The Beach

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Project overview

The latest boutique midrise to grace the beautiful Beach neighbourhood of Toronto, with its myriad area amenities, views of the city skyline, lake and surrounding neighbourhood and ground floor retail.

Housing amenities

A party lounge overlooking Queen Street has a catering kitchen and a big screen TV. There's a rooftop terrace with fire pit, barbecue and dining alcove with tables. Also, there's a gym and a pet spa.

Location and transit

Located on the west side of this bustling community, which boasts a Walkscore of 92. Residents can connect to the downtown core by TTC streetcar, car or bicycle. Drivers can be on the Don Valley Parkway in less than 15 minutes.

In the neighbourhood

Lifestyle options abound along Queen Street, like the Burger's Priest or Murphy's Law Pub and Kitchen, Aroma and Dufflet Pastries. Woodbine Beach and Ashbridges Bay Park are nearby, as are the Live Nation Concert Venue, Alliance Cinemas and Kew Gardens.

NEED TO KNOW

What: WestBeach Condominiums
Builder: Marlin Spring
Architect: Graziani and Corazza Architects
Interior: U31
Location: Queen and Coxwell
Building: A boutique midrise with 89 suites
Sizes: From 316 to 1,195 square feet
Suites: One-bedroom, one-bedroom-plus-den, two-bedroom and two-bedroom-plus-den layouts
Pricing: Starting from the $300,000s
Status: Pre-construction phase
Sales centre: Coming soon. Register for information.
Twitter: @MarlinSpring
Website: westbeachcondos.ca

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metro SPORTS

Dan Marino has "re-signed" with Miami so he can officially retire as a member of the Dolphins

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE SEVILLA OUTFOXES LEICESTER Leicester City's Kasper Schmeichel stops an early penalty from Sevilla's Joaquin Correa during Wednesday's Round of 16 Champions League match in southern Spain. Despite the early penalty miss, Sevilla went on to win 2-1 over the English champions on goals from Pablo Sarabia and Correa. Jamie Vardy scored his first goal of 2017 to give the visitors hope for the return leg back in Leicester on March 14. In Wednesday's other Champions League match, Juventus beat host Porto 2-0. MICHAEL REGAN/GETTY IMAGES

CFL

Argos in talks with Popp over GM job

Former Montreal Alouettes general manager Jim Popp is the leading candidate for the Toronto Argonauts' vacant GM position.

A source said Wednesday that Popp remains in talks with the Argos but a deal wasn't imminent.

Popp didn't immediately respond to a message from The Canadian Press.

Popp was photographed Tuesday night sitting with Maple Leafs Sports And Entertainment chairman Larry Tanenbaum during the Toronto Maple Leafs' 5-4 overtime win over the Winnipeg Jets at the Air Canada Centre.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

AU REVOIR

Montreal fired Popp on Nov. 7 after missing the playoffs for a second straight year.

MLS

Giovinco staying put with Toronto FC

Breathe easy, Toronto FC fans: Sebastian Giovinco is staying put.

For now, at least.

Weeks after the Reds striker's agent Andrea D'Amico spoke to multiple media outlets about a "huge" offer his client received from China, D'Amico told Sky Sports Italia journalist Gianluca Di Marzio that a deal to send the Italian to the burgeoning league was not reached.

"At the moment, he turned it down," D'Amico said. "Everything on transfer market is 'at the moment.' The financial offer doesn't suit Toronto nor Giovinco. We'll see."

Sebastian Giovinco GETTY IMAGES

D'Amico said Chinese Super League club Beijing Guoan offered Giovinco 10 million euros to leave the Reds. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Leafs coming into power with Nylander

NHL

Rookie winger fuels league's No. 1 attack on man advantage

With Winnipeg's penalty killers closing in, William Nylander looks to be cornered and out of options. Then the Maple Leafs forward brushes off Joel Armia, protects the puck from the Jets winger's prying stick and finally whips a cross-ice pass to Leo Komarov for another power-play goal.

Still just a rookie, Nylander is already a wizard on the NHL's No. 1 power-play unit. He leads his team and all rookies with 19 power-play points and the entire league in power-play points per-60 minutes at 8.69.

"You're just trying to see what they give you," Nylander said Wednesday. "Maybe Leo might not have been open and then I maybe could've got a shot off or whatever so it depends what they do."

Nylander had two points with the man advantage Tuesday in Toronto's 5-4 overtime win over the Jets, including his eighth power-play goal that tied the game 4-4. That brought him to within one of the Leafs franchise rookie record for power-play goals (held by three players) and within six of Dan Daoust's franchise rookie mark for power-play points (25), according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

William Nylander GETTY IMAGES

"He's very calm with the puck and I think he makes plays," said teammate Connor Brown. "For him, I think just the way he can have the puck on his stick and be able to look around and see the ice (makes him effective), the way he handles the time and space well."

Nylander spends most of his time on the Toronto power play with fellow rookie and Leafs leading scorer Auston Matthews. Each operates on one side of the ice — Nylander on the right, Matthews on the left — thereby creating duelling threats for opposing penalty kills to contend with.

Matthews set up Nylander's goal against Winnipeg, his 17th overall this season. The American centre shot wide of Connor Hellebuyck in the Jets cage and the puck bounced directly to Nylander, who dropped to his right knee and fired. Matthews said the two had practised the play two months earlier and got "lucky" that it worked in a win.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Homan into Scotties playoffs with 9-0 record

It took an extra end, but Rachel Homan's team was the first into the playoffs at the Canadian women's curling championship.

The Ottawa rink edged Northern Ontario's Krista McCarville 7-6 to get to nine wins without a loss Wednesday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MLB pulling pitches from intentional walks

The players' association has agreed to Major League Baseball's proposal to have intentional walks without pitches this year.

While the union has resisted many of MLB's proposed innovations, players are willing to accept the intentional walk change.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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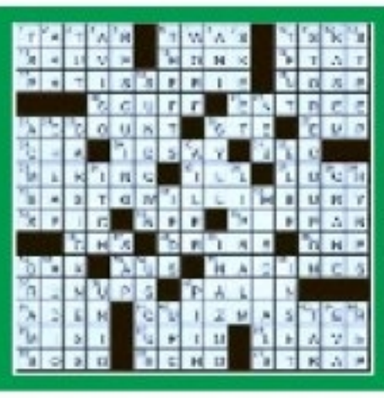

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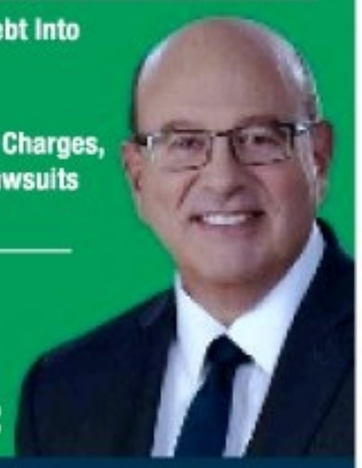

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YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS ON PAGE 18

MAKE IT TONIGHT

Spicy Beef Tacos

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

A sweet and spicy mashup is the key to the addictive flavour of these simple beef tacos..

Ready in 40 minutes
Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 30 minutes
Serves 6

Ingredients
- 1 large sweet potato, diced into bite-size pieces
- 1 Tbsp (15 ml) olive oil
- 1 1/2 tsp (7.5 ml) salt, divided
- 1/2 red onion, thinly sliced and rinsed in very warm water
- 1/4 tsp (1 ml) sugar
- pinch of salt
- 1/3 cup rice vinegar
- 2 lb. (900 g) organic lean ground beef
- 2 Tbsp (30 ml) chili powder
- 2 tsp (10 ml) ground cumin
- 1 tsp (5 ml) cinnamon
- 1 tsp (5 ml) dried oregano
- 1 tsp (5 ml) pepper
- 2 tsp (10 ml) salt
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) shaved Monterey jack cheese
- Handful chopped fresh cilantro
- 8 corn tortillas
- jar of prepared salsa

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 400. Toss sweet potato with olive oil and 1/2 tsp (2ml) salt. Spread on a lined baking sheet and bake 5 to 7 minutes. Toss and bake another 5 minutes, or until fork tender. Remove from oven and place in a bowl; set aside.

2. In a small bowl, dissolve sugar and salt in vinegar, add the onions; set aside.

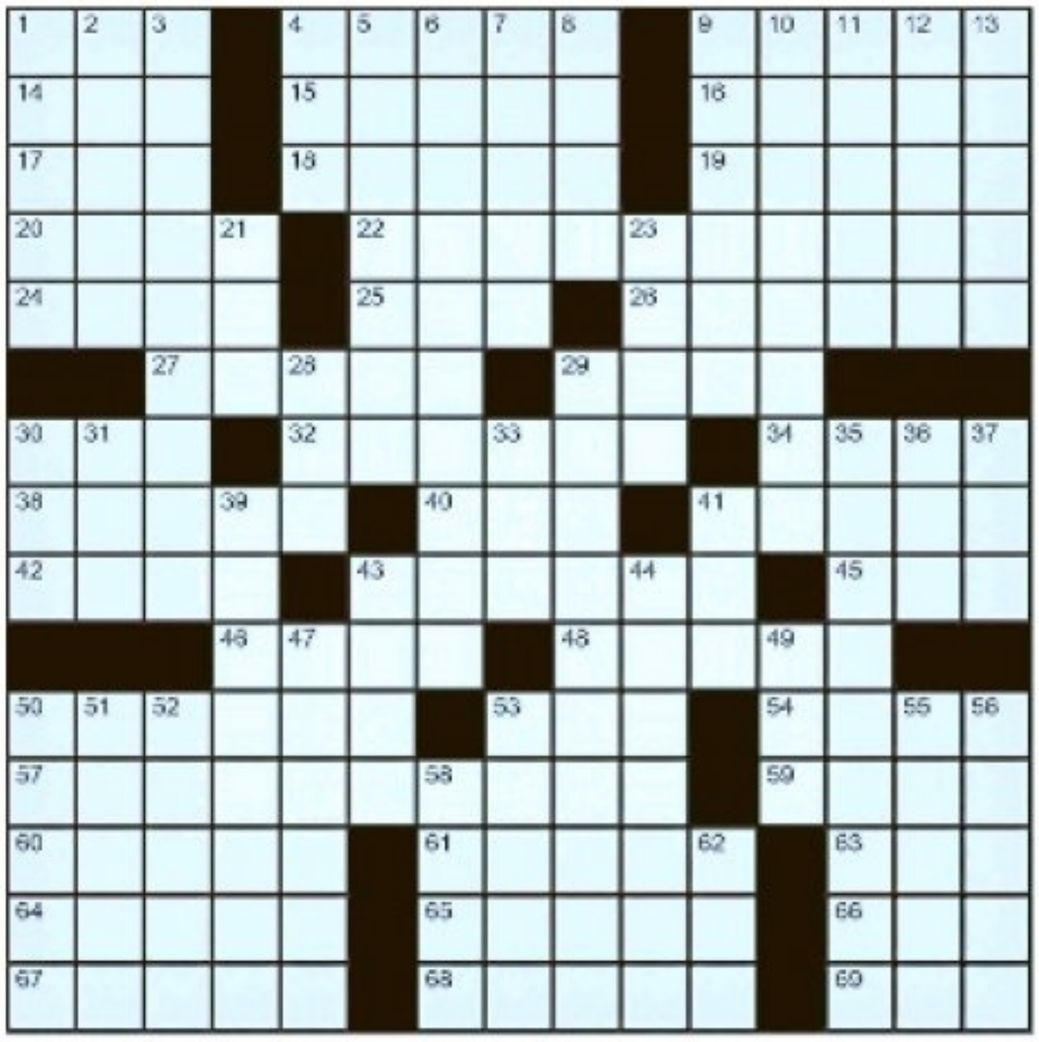
3. In large skillet, cook beef over medium heat, breaking up with spoon, until browned, 10 minutes.

4. Meanwhile, in a small bowl, blend spices and garlic. Stir into meat; cook another 2 minutes. Remove from heat and transfer half to a serving dish. Put other half in an airtight container and refrigerate. Place beef, sweet potato, red onion, cheese, cilantro, salsa and tortillas out for taco assembly.

FOR MORE MEAL IDEAS, VISIT SWEETPOTATOCHRONICLES.COM

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. '_' _ for Zeballos
4. Looked with bewilderment
9. Not suitable
14. "_ had it!" (Enough!)
15. Range
16. More pallid
17. Fall mo.
18. Gawk
19. Show clemency
20. Steel shade
22. Saskatchewan village an hour and a half southeast of Regina
24. Since, to Robert Burns
25. Surgery sites, shortly
26. TomKat surname
27. Heidi author, Johanna _ (b.1827 - d.1901)
29. Fill with food
30. Antagonist
32. Get by day to day: 2 wds.
34. Un-evens
38. One isn't the final version
40. 1990s "Plush" rock gr.
41. Poke around
42. Stand
43. Long river in British Columbia
45. "For what reason?"
46. Hurting
48. V-shaped fortification facing the foe
50. Retort to "Am not!": 2 wds.
53. Intl. clock standard
54. Stratford-_-Avon
57. 'Amber' crop in Western Canada: 2 wds.
59. City commuter's cost
60. "The Wreck of the Mary _" (1959)
61. "Let me take you on _ _..." - Depeche Mode, "World in My Eyes"
63. Needs-to-be-sewn spot
64. Bygone car
65. Walt Whitman poem, _ _ the Body Electric
66. New Zealand parrot
67. Like a clarinetist's prop
68. Retro synthesizers
69. _-inclusive

DOWN
1. Moves swiftly
2. Off-white
3. They 'run high' in Ian & Sylvia's "Four Strong Winds": 2 wds.
4. Natural _
5. Sculpture, painting or ceramics
6. The blue above Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba: 2 wds.
7. Makes money
8. Tinted
9. Consequence
10. Elba's exile-ee
11. Strawberry _ Clock (Psychedelic band)
12. As such: 2 wds.
13. Old shipping weight allowances
21. "That's right.", quick-style
23. Broadway tune: "All _ Jazz"
28. Hitherto
29. Nickname for Canadian hockey great Mr. Lemieux: 2 wds.
30. US Pres. monogram
31. Q. "Is the eighth letter 'H' _ '_'?" A. "It's 'H'."
33. 'Capri' suffix
35. Garment from Canada Goose: 2 wds.
36. Homer Simpson's word
37. Operative
39. Showcased
41. Unhappy
43. "That '70s _"
44. Meshwork
47. Attractive
49. "_ Wiedersehen!"
50. Sort of viper, Puff _
51. Montreal: Mountain Street = _ _ la Montagne
52. Delete
53. "I _ _ tired of working..." - Peter Gabriel, "In Your Eyes"
55. Oxford University college
56. Kathmandu is its capital
58. Corey of "The Lost Boys" (1987)
62. Some movie ratings

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
Listen to someone older or more experienced today. This might be on a one-to-one basis, or this person might be in a group.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Discussions with bosses, parents and VIPs will be practical today. People will be hands-on about finding a solution. These talks will be worthwhile.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
) This is a good day to make detailed plans for future travel. Likewise, it's a good day to make educational plans. If you have to study or write anything, you will not overlook details.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Your efforts regarding inheritances, shared property, taxes, debt and other red-tape issues will produce results today. You are in a practical frame of mind and you have endurance.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Someone older might have advice for you today, or vice versa. Either way, today you are concerned with practical solutions that are doable. No pie-in-thesky stuff.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
This is a productive day for you because you are prepared to roll up your sleeves and get busy. You have an eye for detail, and you're not afraid of routine.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
This is a good day to teach children. Likewise, it's an excellent day to practice a technique in music, sports or any art form, because you will have the patience to pay attention to detail.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Tackle major repair projects at home today. This also is a good day for family discussions. Listen to the advice of older family members.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You have a patient, careful and detailoriented mental attitude today. You won't mind routine work, because you just want to get the job done.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
If shopping today, you will be interested in buying long-lasting, practical items only. No feather boas for you! You will use your money wisely (as you generally do).

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Look around yourself today with a critical eye to see what needs to be done or corrected. You will quickly ask, "What's wrong with this picture?" You also might be a teacher to someone today.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
This is a wonderful day for research, because you are in the right frame of mind to wade through a myriad of details. You won't overlook anything.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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3	6						1	4
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